



---

**State of Vermont**  
**Vermont Department of Education**  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

October 30, 2009

Hello!

Enclosed you will find a script for a 30-minute original dramatic production, *Sex TV*, which uses HIV/STD/pregnancy prevention messages to explore how communication, gossip, and risk behaviors impact sexual health. This fun and lively production script is the result of a youth-driven HIV prevention education project that is full of Vermont's youth voice! This script is also available electronically on the Vermont Department of Education Web site.

We are providing this script to high schools across Vermont. Our hope is that schools will choose to perform the work for their school as well as a broader audience. You may produce this script as is, or with adaptations. The suggested target audience for this production is middle school and early high school students. A DVD of the original production is available through the Vermont Department of Education Health Education Resource Center (HERC) as a guide for live theatrical production. This DVD should not, however, be used as a stand-alone educational tool.

Educators are cautioned to preview the script before use with students and to discuss production plans with school administrators in advance. We suggest that any production of *Sex TV* include a "talk back" discussion afterward with actors and audience. A Discussion Guide can be found at the end of the script.

We hope you find this resource useful for theater students, health education classes, after-school programs or wherever else it may fit into your educational landscape. If you have any questions regarding this product, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Kathryn C. O'Neill  
HIV Prevention Program &  
Student Health and Learning  
Workgroup Coordinator  
802-828-5151  
[kathryn.oneill@state.vt.us](mailto:kathryn.oneill@state.vt.us)

Ruth Ann Pattee  
Director / Producer  
Education Consultant for the  
Vermont Department of Education  
[thespians@gmavt.net](mailto:thespians@gmavt.net)

"Sex TV" was supported by Cooperative Agreement DP08-801 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the Vermont Department of Education and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

# **Sex TV Theatrical Script**



**November 2009**



**HIV Prevention Program  
(802) 828-5151**

A Play in Six Scenes for Teens by Teens



Discussion Guide and Production Notes Included

# Sex TV

Written by:

Mary Briggs, Katie Costello, Hannah Ferenc, Jordan Iannuzzi, Emma Kessler, Olivia Nishi, Karianne Morehouse, Marcus Moreno, Victor Schwartz, Connor Snell, and Emma Walker

Additional dialogue by:

Ruth Ann Pattee, Mallory Hebert, Finlay Miller,  
and Alyssa Stankiewicz

Sex TV is made available for production through a grant from the Vermont Department  
of Education

Youth Engagement in HIV Prevention  
Drama Initiative

Copying of this script is permitted for theatrical use

## **Scenes:**

- I. A typical American living room
- II. A teen night-time drama
- III. First Class Nanny
- IV. Commercial break
- V. The latest James Bond movie
- VI. A game show - "What Would You Risk?"

Sex TV was first produced at Harwood Union High School, Duxbury, Vermont, on May 26, 2009, with the following cast:

Boy....Finlay Miller

Girl....Mallory Hebert

Party Scene Announcer....Alyssa Stankiewicz

Party Guests....Mary Briggs, Katie Costello, Hannah Ferenc, Jordan Iannuzzi, Emma Kessler, Olivia Nishi, Marcus Moreno, Victor Schwartz, Connor Snell, Alyssa Stankiewicz, Emma Walker

First Class Nanny....Emma Kessler

Mother....Alyssa Stankiewicz

Father....Connor Snell

Children....Olivia Nishi, Emma Walker

Young Couple....Mary Briggs, Marcus Moreno

James Bond....Marcus Moreno

Q....Connor Snell

Dr. Feminine Wiles....Mary Briggs

Game Show Announcer....Emma Walker

Game Show Host....Victor Schwartz

Lovely Assistants:

Clarice - Jordan Iannuzzi

Juliette - Katie Costello

Helga - Connor Snell

It was produced and directed by Ruth Ann Pattee, with co-facilitation by Kate O'Neill.

Copyright 2009 by the Vermont Department of Education

"Sex TV" was supported by Cooperative Agreement DP08-801 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the Vermont Department of Education and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Copying and production of this script is for educational and non-profit use only. Adaptation is permitted as long as the original intent is preserved. The names and genders of the characters are flexible, and directors and educators are encouraged to consider diversity when casting the play.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Educators are cautioned to preview the script before use with students. It is advisable to communicate production plans with school administrators in advance. A DVD of the original production is available as a guide for live theatrical production, and is not for use as a stand-alone educational tool.

This show is intended to have a "talk back" discussion afterward with actors and audience. Audiences may ask questions of the actors about specific content; educators are advised to be prepared to field some more difficult or sensitive questions. A Discussion Guide can be found at the end of the script, and educators are encouraged to copy it for use by audiences.

## Sex TV

Setting: A modern day living room. Stage right is a sofa with a coffee table in front of it and an end table upstage of the sofa. On the end table is a TV remote control. Stage left are positioned four periaktoi (three-sided columns), which will turn to reveal different backgrounds.

*(Opening: The stage is lit on stage right only. A BOY and GIRL are sitting on the couch, studying from two large text books. Notebook paper is strewn about the coffee table in front of them, along with a plate of cookies and two soda cans.)*

BOY: That's so cool that your parents went out tonight!

GIRL: Yeah, but we really do have to keep studying for that chem exam.

BOY: I need a break, we've been studying all afternoon! Let's watch a little TV, relax, maybe I could give you a massage...

GIRL: You know, I read in Cosmo that two out of three massages lead to sex!

BOY: *(interested)* Really...?!

GIRL: Take it easy, Romeo. Let's just watch TV.

*(BOY picks up remote, puts arm around GIRL, and turns on the "TV". GIRL removes BOY's arm. Lights go down. Music begins.)*

VOICE OVER: This just in, anyone who is anyone is mingling and tingling at a hot Upper East Side party tonight. This is the kind of bash where people get labeled for life. I have a feeling some of them just don't have their facts straight... and I'll be the first one to find out who's right and who's wrong. You know you love me! XO, XO!

*(Lights come up stage left on a party scene with well-dressed teens mingling and talking. Lights focus on a group down stage left: HANNAH, JORDAN, EMMA K., OLIVIA. CONNOR is hanging around behind them holding a marker, eavesdropping, ready to writing signs on their backs which will eventually "label" them. Music fades out.)*

HANNAH: Look how fat she looks in that dress!

JORDAN: Oh my God, look at her hair!

OLIVIA: Has she ever heard of conditioner? And look who she's with!

HANNAH: He deserves someone SO much better.

OLIVIA: He should be with ME!

EMMA: Forget about you, what do you think about that new guy, Chad?

JORDAN: He's a mega-hottie!

EMMA: I know! Whenever I see him I am, like, "Day-am! He is fine!"

HANNAH: I hate to tell you this, but I heard from someone at his old school that he has herpes.

JORDAN: Not just herpes, SUPER herpes!

EMMA: He may have an STD, but he's an S-T-U-D!

OLIVIA: Can you say stud-muffin?

JORDAN: Do you ever think about the consequences, Emma?

EMMA: Who cares? There's only a 2% chance that I would catch it.

*(CONNOR has heard this conversation. He begins to write "labels" on the girls' backs.)*

HANNAH: Huh? What are you talking about? It's actually 75%!

JORDAN: It's super contagious, you have to be really careful.

EMMA: Where did you hear that?

HANNAH: Remember seventh grade health class?

JORDAN: Did you actually pay attention to that? I couldn't even look at Mr. Ward after that how-to-use-a-condom presentation.

HANNAH: It wasn't THAT bad. And besides, he just used a banana.

OLIVIA: Ahh! I've never been able to eat a banana since!

EMMA: Whatever. If I get the chance, I'm totally going after Chad.

*(stands)* I'll be right back. I have to "freshen up".

*(EMMA turns her back to audience, and there is a sign on her back that says "Just Doesn't Care." She moves upstage and stands with her "label" to the audience.)*



HANNAH: How stupid can you be?

OLIVIA: What? *(awkward pause)* I'm going to go get some punch.

*(OLIVIA turns back to audience, and is wearing a sign that says "Oblivious". She moves upstage and stands with her "label" to the audience.)*

HANNAH: In this case, ignorance is NOT bliss.

JORDAN: Where did you learn about all this?

HANNAH: Ever hear of the Internet? Or the library? There's lots of info out there if you care about finding it!

*(HANNAH & JORDAN turn backs to audience; HANNAH's sign says "Totally Informed" and JORDAN's says "Half Way There!" They move upstage and stand with their "labels" to the audience. Lights change focus to MARY, center. KATIE enters stage left; goes over to MARY. CONNOR follows them.)*

KATIE: OMG, did you hear about Jessica?

MARY: No! No, what?

KATIE: She just came back from the hospital and found out she got HIV from that new guy, Chad! She didn't know he was infected!

MARY: Are you for reals? Didn't they just start going out? And they slept together already?

KATIE: Yeah, they had unprotected sex.

*(MARY is distracted by people from across the room, and doesn't clearly hear what KATIE is saying. CONNOR begins to write a "label" for KATIE.)*

KATIE: Ouch! This cold sore in my mouth is really bugging me.

MARY: Cold sore, huh? Is that even possible? How did she find out she might have HIV?

KATIE: She was going to give blood at the Blood Drive, and they tested her blood. I guess they saw something, so she went to the hospital for another test. Her sister held Jessica's hand through the whole thing.

MARY: Oh yeah? Look, there's Alyssa and Karianne. I have to tell them.

*(KATIE turns back to audience. She wears a sign that says "Got It Right". She goes upstage center to the table where MARCUS and VICTOR are chatting. MARY crosses to ALYSSA & KARIANNE, stage right. CONNOR follows.)*

MARY: OMG! Guess what I just heard about Jessica?

ALYSSA & KARIANNE: OMG, what? Tell, tell, tell!

MARY: Well, Katie told me that Jessica got HIV through a cold sore when Chad kissed her!

KARIANNE: Is that even possible?

ALYSSA: Is that Katie with Marcus?

*(ALYSSA and KARIANNE are distracted & gossiping while MARY is talking. CONNOR writes a "label" for MARY.)*

MARY: I just heard about it from Katie who went with Jessica to the hospital. Jessica was freaking out. Katie had to hold her hand the entire time.

KARIANNE: That sounds pretty bad.

ALYSSA: Yeah, thanks for telling us!

*(MARY turns back to audience. Her sign says "Didn't Listen". HANNAH crosses to ALYSSA and KARIANNE.)*

HANNAH: Have you seen Katie?

ALYSSA: Yeah, I'd stay away from her.

KARIANNE: Guess what we just heard. Katie got HIV just from holding Jessica's hand.

*(CONNOR writes "labels" for ALYSSA. and KARIANNE)*

HANNAH: Yeah, right. That's not possible.

ALYSSA: Yeah it is. She's freaking out. She just got the results!

KARIANNE: I had no idea it was that contagious.

HANNAH: How could you guys believe that?

ALYSSA: Well, we did hear it from Mary.

KARIANNE: Who heard it from Jessica!

*(ALYSSA & KARIANNE turn around, wearing signs that say "Just Plain Wrong!" HANNAH looks at them, looks at KATIE, and looks at her hands.)*

HANNAH: No way. I've read that you can't get HIV or AIDS by holding hands, kissing, sharing food, or anything like that.

*(HANNAH sees that she is talking to herself, shakes head, moves upstage and stands with her "label" to the audience. Lights change focus to VICTOR & MARCUS, who are sitting at a table center stage. CONNOR crosses upstage to listen.)*

MARCUS: So have you slept with Victoria yet?

VICTOR: Tonight's the night!

MARCUS: What're you using for protection?

VICTOR: She's on the pill. That's good enough.

MARCUS: Nooo. You really should use a condom.

*(CONNOR writes "labels" for MARCUS and VICTOR.)*

VICTOR: Nah!

MARCUS: But you can still get STD's, you know. Pregnancy isn't the only thing to worry about.

VICTOR: No way, the Pill takes care of that. I heard it on TV.

*(VICTOR stands, turns back to audience, and the sign on his back says "Sadly Misinformed". MARCUS stands, turns back to audience, and the sign on his back says "Knows The Facts." They move upstage and stand with their "labels" to the audience. The audience should now see all of the actors and their labels.)*

CONNOR: There sure are a lot of people talking about sex at this party...!

*(CONNOR turns around; the sign on his back says "Who Invited Him?" Lights fade out; music starts.)*

VOICE OVER: Spotted - a lot of wrong people. It just goes to show, don't trust gossip, unless you get it from me, of course! Take the time to get the facts before you fall for that hot guy or girl. Don't let your ignorance label you! Till next time, XO, XO!

*(Lights come up on sofa stage right.)*

BOY: What a dumb show! How could those people be so stupid?

GIRL: I like that show! And besides, you're so SMART? Name one thing you know about HIV.

BOY: Uh... it stands for human immunodeficiency virus.

GIRL: Well, okay, I'm impressed, but I think a lot of people know that. What else?

BOY: You SAID to name ONE thing I know, and I did! How about you, if you're so informed?

GIRL: Okay - I know that it takes an average of 25 days after a person is infected with HIV for an antibody test to show that it's positive.

BOY: Wow, really?

GIRL: Yes. Your turn again.

BOY: Uh... Let's see what else is on.

*(He "clicks" the remote. Lights go down stage right.)*

VOICE OVER: "And now back to 'First Class Nanny'."

*(Lights up stage left. Two young CHILDREN are screaming and running around while a frazzled MOTHER is telling them to stop. FATHER is sitting in a chair, reading the newspaper.)*

CHILD 1: I won't do anything you say, ever!

CHILD 2: Gimme a cookie, now!

MOTHER: Now, children, listen to me ---

CHILDREN: NO!

*(NANNY enters, stage left.)*

NANNY: Today I will be visiting with the Mumphy family who say that they can no longer control their children.

CHILD 1: I won't, I won't, I won't!

CHILD 2: I wanna cookie! I wanna cookie!

*(NANNY walks towards MOTHER.)*

NANNY: Your children are out of control.

MOTHER: I know. I don't know how it got so bad!

NANNY: You need to discipline these children. I mean *look* at them!

*(CHILD 1 lies on the floor, kicking her feet and pounding her fists on the floor in an obvious tantrum. CHILD 2 runs in a circle yelling "Cookie!" over and over.)*

MOTHER: Children, SHH! I really don't know what I am doing! I was sixteen when it happened!

NANNY: Why so young?

MOTHER: HE told me I couldn't get pregnant the first time!

NANNY: That's a myth! What happened the second time?

FATHER: I told you, you should have let me wear a condom!

MOTHR: WHAT? That's what I said!

FATHER: Oh, yeah? You were the one who wanted to go out on a date, alone!

MOTHER: If only you hadn't talked me into going to that drive-in movie!

NANNY: Well it's too late for looking back now! Parents are supposed to work as a team. We aren't two separate units here. We're one!

*(The MOTHER and FATHER smile and nod their agreement, while the CHILDREN yell even louder. NANNY shakes her head; lights fade to black.)*

ANNOUNCER: We'll be right back to hear the rest of First Class Nanny's advice after this word from our sponsors.

*(Lights come up center. MARCUS and MARY walk in from stage left with a picnic basket while romantic music plays. They spread out their blanket, bring out sandwiches. MARCUS speaks directly to the audience.)*

MARCUS: We've been together for several years now, and our relationship has gone through a lot.

MARY: That's true.

MARCUS: It's not easy to find that special person in your life, and maintain an intimate relationship.

MARY: But when you do, it's really worth it!

MARCUS: It means a lot to me that Mary has supported me through the years, because... I have herpes.

MARY: And I don't --- wait, you have herpes?

*(The romantic music is cut off, abruptly.)*

MARY: *(speaking directly to MARCUS)* But you don't have any symptoms!

MARCUS: Yes, many people who are infected with herpes have symptoms so mild they don't notice them at all or else don't recognize them as herpes.

MARY: You told me you had been tested, and were totally clean!

MARCUS: *(speaking directly to MARY)* Oh, that was for HIV. I just found out about the herpes.

MARY: And you didn't think herpes was worth mentioning?

MARCUS: It's pretty embarrassing...

MARY: It's not like you're the only one in the world who has it! *(speaking directly to audience)* 500,000 cases are diagnosed each year in this country alone - 1 in 5 American adults has herpes, but like you, only a third of those people even know they have it.

MARCUS: I'm sorry I didn't tell you. But, you know, the doctor told me that many couples have had sexual relations for years without transmitting herpes. They can even still have children!

*(Romantic music fades in again. They begin to gather up the picnic items.)*

MARY: Well, I'd better get tested. Then we'll see where we go from there.

MARCUS: I knew you wouldn't let me down. Now...I guess I should also tell you about the history of triplets in my family...?

*(MARY stops and stares at MARCUS. Lights fade down.)*

VOICE OVER: *(speaking quickly, as if listing side effects in a drug commercial)* Herpes is a serious illness. Discuss your sexual history with your partner before having sex. Side effects of not being honest may include arguments, crying, break-ups, and years of living with the guilt of having infected another person without their knowledge or consent.

*(Lights come up on the couch, stage right. BOY and GIRL look at each other awkwardly, move a little more apart from each other, and change the channel. The "James Bond" movie theme song is heard.)*

BOY: Finally, something good is on!

GIRL: Ugh, James Bond? Are you kidding? He's so unrealistic!

BOY: Of course he is, he's a spy with tons of cool gadgets an awesome car, and a license to kill!

GIRL: I'm not talking about that stuff. What about all those women he sleeps with? How is it possible that he just looks at them and they melt?

BOY: Shh, it's coming back on!

*(Lights come up stage left and BOND walks out in a tuxedo. Q enters holding a watch.)*

Q: Your new watch James, complete with laser-grapple hook-martini mixer.

BOND: Hmm, I can't wait to try out the martini mixer.

Q: On your next mission, you'll have to fly over Russian airspace and skydive out of the plane without a parachute into a river that's two feet deep, then tunnel into the secret bomb storage facility, where your objective is to get a hold of the nuclear warheads, kill every Russian, and have sex with as many women as possible.

BOND: I'll get right on that.

Q: But first, Doctor Feminine Wiles would like to see you.

*(Q hands BOND a hospital gown, which BOND puts on over his tuxedo. A female doctor, DR. WILES, enters)*

WILES: Well, Mr....

BOND: Bond. James Bond.

WILES: Well, Mr. Bond, we've got a few things to discuss today...

BOND: *(Harshly, his signature line)* Do you expect me to talk???

WILES: (*Sighs*): Not really, no.

BOND: I don't understand. Usually the pants are off by now.

WILES: Well, Mr. Bond, after seeing your test results... (*She looks through a file*) ...it appears you have every sexually transmitted disease known to man, except for AIDS. But you do have HIV. I think the pants will be staying on today, since you've got just about everything.

BOND: You're damn right I've got everything.

WILES: I don't think you get the thrust of what I'm trying to tell you...

BOND: Oh, I've got the thrust.

WILES: Apparently. You have herpes, gonorrhea, syphilis...

*(She begins listing off diseases. Q enters with a box of letters.)*

Q: Miss Money Penny reports these letters have just been delivered. All from women of your...ah...acquaintance over the years. You might want to start thinking about how much of your paycheck you want to devote to child support, James.

BOND: Do you have a watch for that?

Q: (*Brandishes a condom*) No, but here's a gadget you've evidently never used before. You should take a stab at it sometime.

BOND: Con - dom...?

*(Bond theme plays as he contemplates the condom. Lights fade out center and come up on the couch, stage right.)*

GIRL: Ha! That was the best James Bond movie ever! He finally got what he deserved.

BOY: He can't help it if he's attractive to women!

GIRL: Yeah, but he can be smarter about how many people he sleeps with! When you have sex with a person, it's like having sex with everyone that person has ever slept with! Think about it!

BOY: (*thinks about it for a moment*) Uhh...here, you can have the remote. Find something... fun.

*(She takes the remote and clicks. Cheesy game show music plays.)*

ANNOUNCER: It's time to play "What Would You Risk?" the game show that tests your sexual risk awareness! And now, here's your host, Richard Whartz!



HOST: Thank you, thank you. Oh hey (looks at girl in audience) what are YOU doing after the show? Ha ha! Let's say hello to my lovely assistants, Clarice, Juliette, and Helga!

*(The Lovely Assistants enter stage left and say hello. The last, HELGA, is a boy dressed as a girl, for comic relief. They carry signs that will be used during the show. They cross to three chairs where the contestants will sit.)*

HOST: Okay, now let's meet today's contestants. First, from Hackensack, NJ, a pre-school teacher by day, and monkey trainer by night, *(name of guest contestant)*.

*(Contestant 1 greets Host and Lovely Assistants.)*

HOST: Next, from Middlesex, Vermont, a yoga instructor who spends the weekends playing Extreme Paint Ball, *(name of guest contestant)*.

*(Contestant 2 greets Host and Lovely Assistants.)*

HOST: Hmm, Middlesex, huh? You're probably really good at this game! And finally, from Hepzibuh, Georgia, a former CEO who quit her job to audition for a reality show, Hannah Smith!

*(Contestant 3 is a member of the cast. She greets Host and Lovely Assistants.)*

HOST: Okay! Contestants who answer the most questions correctly might win one of the following prizes...

CLARICE: 100 grand!

JULIETTE: An all-inclusive trip to Disney World!

HELGA: The satisfaction of being well-informed!

HOST: Yes, it's true, people sometimes engage in risky sexual behavior. To test YOUR knowledge of what's risky - it's time to play --- What Would You Risk?

*(The Lovely Assistants get out their first answer cards, keeping them turn away from the contestants and audience until it is their turn to reveal them. After the HOST reads each question, there is a ticking sound effect while the contestant thinks. If the contestant is right, there is the sound of a bell; if the contestant is wrong, there is the sound of a buzzer.)*

HOST: Contestant number one, here is your first question. After abstinence, what is the next best protection against STDs, HIV infection, and pregnancy during sex? Is it A - The Pill, or B - The use of a condom, or C - an antibiotic?

*(On the cards, CLARICE reveals the first choice, JULIETTE the second, and HELGA the third. Contestant 1 guesses. If the contestant says B, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: That's absolutely correct, *(name of contestant)*. Very good, you're obviously well informed. Now on to the next question.

*(If Contestant 1 is wrong, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: Oh, no, I'm sorry, *(name of contestant)*, the answer is B, the use of a condom. Now on to the next question. Contestant number two, which of these situations has the highest risk of leading to sex? Is it, A - a couple studying alone at home, B – a couple going out to the movies alone, or C - a couple going out in a group?

*(Contestant 2 guesses. If the contestant says A, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: That's absolutely correct, *(name of contestant)*. Guess you know what's risky! Now on to the next question.

*(If Contestant 2 is wrong, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: Oh, no, I'm sorry, *(name of contestant)*, the answer is A, a couple studying alone at home. Now, Contestant number three, in which one of these situations is it possible to contract HIV? Is it A - kissing an HIV infected person, or B - having unprotected sex with an HIV infected person, or C - touching dried HIV infected blood?

HANNAH: Oh, I know I heard something about HIV being passed through blood - I'll pick C!

HOST: Oh... I'm sorry, the correct answer is B, having unprotected sex.

HANNAH: I knew that! But I thought it could be contracted through blood, too?

JULIETTE: It is true that HIV can be passed through the bodily exchange of blood, however once blood has been exposed to the air and has dried, it no longer carries the infection.

HOST: Thank you, Juliette, for that most informative explanation!

JULIETTE: Oh, you're welcome!

HOST: Now, on to Round Two. Contestant Number One, what is the chance of NOT, I repeat, NOT contracting herpes after having unprotected sex with an infected person? Is it A - 2%, B - 75%, or C - 25%?

*(Contestant 1 guesses. If the contestant says C, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: That's absolutely correct, *(name of contestant)*. Now on to the next question.

*(If Contestant 1 is wrong, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: Oh, no, I'm sorry, *(name of contestant)*, the answer is C, 25%. Now on to the next question. Contestant Number Two, how long after a person is infected with HIV can it take for a blood test to show that it's positive? A - 25 days, B - one year, or C - four months?

*(Contestant 2 guesses. If the contestant says A, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: That's absolutely correct, *(name of contestant)*. Now on to the next question.

*(If Contestant 2 is wrong, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: Oh, no, I'm sorry, *(name of contestant)*, the answer is A, 25 days on average. Now on to the next question. Contestant number three, according to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, how many American adults are believed to have contracted herpes? A - 1 in 50, B - 1 in 5, or C - 1 in 100?

*(Contestant 3 guesses. If the contestant says B, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: That's absolutely correct, *(name of contestant)*.

*(If Contestant 3 is wrong, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: Oh, no, I'm sorry, *(name of contestant)*, the answer is B - 1 in 5. On to Round Three! Contestant number one, here is your final question: What does HIV stand for? Is it, A - human immune virus, B - hyper innovative vaccine, or C - human immunodeficiency virus?

*(Contestant 1 guesses. If the contestant says C, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: That's absolutely correct, *(name of contestant)*. Contestant number two, here is your final question.

*(If Contestant 1 is wrong, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: Oh, no, I'm sorry, *(name of contestant)*, the answer is C. Contestant number two, here is your final question: What is the difference between HIV and AIDS? Is it A - AIDS is the virus that causes HIV, B - HIV is the virus that causes AIDS, or C - there is no difference?

*(Contestant 2 guesses. If the contestant says B, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: That's absolutely correct, *(name of contestant)*. Contestant number three, here is your final question: What is the best way to avoid getting into an unwanted sexual situation? Is it A - talk to your partner and set boundaries before engaging in sexual behavior, B - telling your partner to stop during sexual activity, or C - hoping that it just won't happen to you?

*(If Contestant 2 is wrong, use the following dialogue:)*

HOST: Oh, no, I'm sorry, *(name of contestant)*, the answer is A.

Now it's time to total up the scores.

*(The Host starts with the person who got the least number of answers correct.)*

HOST: Contestant number \_\_\_\_, you need to study up on your facts before your next date! And just to make sure that date goes, um, safely, your prize is to have that date chaperoned by our lovely assistant, Helga!

Contestant number \_\_\_\_, you did a little better, but you still need more information. Unfortunately, we're all out of trips to Disney World, so your prize is a Vermont Department of Education Health Booklet!

Congratulations, contestant number \_\_\_\_, you're today's Grand Prize Winner! In addition to having the satisfaction of being the most informed person here today, you win 100 grand!

*(The Lovely Assistants give the candy bar to the contestant.)*

HOST: You really deserve this! See you next time on "What Would You Risk?"

*(Game Show music plays, and the lights down on stage left, and come up on the BOY and GIRL, stage right.)*

GIRL: (sarcastically) So... still want to give me that massage?

BOY: (enthusiastic) Okay!

GIRL: Wait a minute, we just watched TV for half an hour and every show was about being careful in a sexual relationship! Weren't you paying attention to all that?

BOY: Yeah, but none of that stuff's going to happen to US!

GIRL: Well it COULD if we don't decide where this is going to go. I know you don't want to talk about this, I think it's embarrassing too, but after everything we just saw isn't it worth discussing?

BOY: Okay, okay.

GIRL: So... obviously you want to give me a massage, which could lead to sex, especially with my parents not home, but I'm not sure we're ready to take that next step.

BOY: Well, let's talk about it.

*(Lights go down as the BOY and GIRL start their discussion, and the song "Let's Talk About Sex" plays.)*

*THE END*

## PROP LIST

The original production made use of four periaktos (three sided scenery panels) which were placed in a row Center Stage to Stage Left, and turned to reveal different scenery backdrops. The Director and Cast are encouraged to use their imaginations, but the original scene design is noted below.

**Scene I.** A typical American living room:

**Scene Design:** Sofa, end table, lamp, coffee table. This scene is played off to Stage Right and does not employ the periaktos.

**Props:** text books, notebook paper, plate of cookies, soda cans, TV remote control.

**Scene II.** A teen night-time drama:

**Scene Design:** A large picture window over looking a city skyline, with drapes at either end. Café tables and chairs as desired.

**Props:** Glasses of soda, party snacks in bowls, etc. Each actor comes onstage with a sign pre-fastened to the back of their clothing as directed in the script. The character of Connor may bring on a marker to "act" the part of writing on the characters' backs.

**Scene III.** First Class Nanny:

**Scene Design:** This scene is played Downstage Center with the upstage lights lower so as not to reveal the periaktos, or a traveler curtain may be drawn over them. A chair may be brought on for Father.

**Props:** Newspaper for Father.

**Scene IV.** Commercial break:

**Scene Design:** A pleasant outdoor scene on the periaktos, such as a meadow or a park.

**Props:** Picnic blanket and basket; other picnic items as desired.

**Scene V.** The latest James Bond movie:

**Scene Design:** This scene is played Downstage Center with the upstage lights lower so as not to reveal the periaktos, or a traveler curtain may be drawn over them.

**Props:** Watch, hospital gown, clipboard, large reference book, box of letters, wrapped condom.

**Scene VI.** A game show - "What Would You Risk?":

**Scene Design:** Flashy and bright colors on the periaktos, to resemble a 1980's game show. The words "What Would You Risk?", one on each unit, in big "bubble font" letters. Three chairs for each contestant are needed, and a lectern maybe used for the host.

**Props:** In the original production, large envelopes were taped to the back of each contestant's chair to hold the cards which the Lovely Assistants hold up. It is important to make sure before the show that these cards are in the correct order. Other props needed are health information booklets (available from the Vermont Dept. of Education), a \$100,000 Candy Bar, and index cards for the Host. If desired, a "microphone" may be created for the Host in a 1980's style. The original production used a thin dowel rod with a foam "clown nose" attached to the top, painted black.

## **COSTUME PLOT**

Costumes can be as simple and solid color tee shirts and jeans throughout, or as indicated by each specific character. Here is the Costume Plot as used in the original production:

**Scene I.** A typical American living room:

The Boy and Girl wore modern-day street clothes.

**Scene II.** A teen night-time drama:

Actors wore evening party clothes, dresses and suits.

**Scene III.** First Class Nanny:

The Nanny wore a suit jacket with a skirt. Mother was dressed in sweat pants and a worn shirt to reflect the disorganized state of her life. Father was dressed in a button-down shirt and suit pants. The Children wore modern-day street clothes; however if time allows for a costume change for these actors, it would be funny to see them in "little girl" dresses or "little boy" short pants and suit coat.

**Scene IV.** Commercial break:

Actors on the picnic wore summer time casual clothes.

**Scene V.** The latest James Bond movie:

Q was dressed in a suit and Bond in a tuxedo. Bond wore the hospital gown right over his tux for a funny effect. The Doctor wore a lab coat over a day time dress.

**Scene VI.** A game show - "What Would You Risk?":

The Host was dressed in the "loudest" 1980's suit we could find. Clashing colors are a plus. The Lovely Assistants were dressed in evening gowns. Helga was played by a boy in drag for a funny effect (optional). Contestant Number Three was in modern-day street clothes, as would be the contestants chosen from the audience.



## **ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION NOTES**

### **Choosing the Game Show Contestants:**

During the tour of the original production we found that it worked best to have the contestants chosen in advance of the show. This allowed the students to be aware of the fact that they would be participating, and also allowed the Host to receive the names of the contestants beforehand. In a public showing, the house manager may ask for volunteers before the show begins. It is not recommended that the Host ask for volunteers on the spot during the production.

### **Sound Effects:**

The effects and songs used in the original production were all either downloaded from free sites on the Internet, or purchased from sites such as I-Tunes. Each production team is permitted to use its collective imagination with sound effects, as long as they remain appropriate to the show. A list is provided below.

### **Scene I.** A typical American living room:

No sound effects.

### **Scene II.** A teen night-time drama:

1. Underscoring the voice over at the beginning and the end was the first 30 seconds of "Forca" by Nelly Furtado, looped to start again as needed. Any piece of music reflecting a modern-day teen drama is suitable.

2. A "wah-wah-wah" sound was played when actors who were misinformed revealed their signs.

3. A "ding-ding-ding" sound was played when actors who were well informed revealed their signs.

### **Scene III.** First Class Nanny:

No sound effects. A musical theme for the Nanny could be inserted.

### **Scene IV.** Commercial break:

1. The first minute of the "Peer Gynt Suite: Prelude" was played as the actors entered and underscored their dialogue until the actress said "Wait - what?" The music was cut off abruptly, then faded back in at the end for their last lines and exit.

### **Scene V.** The latest James Bond movie:

1. The James Bond Theme began playing immediately as the lights came up on the Boy and Girl. It faded out as the dialogue between Q and Bond began, and

started again when Bond says "Do you have a watch for that?"

**Scene VI.** A game show - "What Would You Risk?":

1. A "Cheesy Game Show Theme" was played as the lights came up through to the introduction of the Host. It was faded back in at the end of the show when the Host congratulated the winner.
2. Each correct answer was followed by a "ding" sound and each incorrect answer was followed by a buzzer sound.
3. A "ticking" sound as heard on many popular game shows was played as the contestants thought about each answer. The sound operator then played the appropriate "right" or "wrong" sound. This requires a sound operator who is diligently following the show and will provide a challenge to the technical student.

**End of show:** As soon as the Boy said "Let's talk about it", the chorus of the song "Let's Talk About Sex" by Salt-N-Peppa was played, as the actors mimed their conversation and the lights faded down to black.

## **Sex T.V. Discussion Guide**

The following discussion questions and activity ideas are provided as a supplement to the Sex T.V. performance script.

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### **Gossip**

Why do people spread gossip and rumors? What can happen when a gossiper gets the information wrong? Do you think spreading gossip and rumors can be damaging to your health or the health of others? Why or why not? What strategies can you employ to deal with gossip and rumors? Which of these strategies sounds the best to you? Why?

#### **Sex on Television**

Think about a popular TV show that you enjoy watching. What did you enjoy about the show? Who was your favorite character and why? Were any of the characters romantically/sexually involved? If so, describe the situation including their approximate ages, quality of their relationship, and their discussion or use of protection against pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. What message(s), positive or negative, does this relationship send young people about sexual involvement? Do you agree with the message(s)? Explain.

#### **Teen Pregnancy**

If you were to find out that you (or your girlfriend) were pregnant, how would that change the next year of your life? How would that change your goals for your future?

#### **Interpersonal Communication**

After watching a half hour of T.V. that covered a variety of risks related to sexual activity, the boy and girl on the sofa decide that they will “talk about it.” What might they say to each other in that conversation?

## **Activity Ideas:**

### **Letter to a Friend**

Maria and Michael are talking about HIV. Maria decides that Michael has many misconceptions about the transmission of this disease. Maria decides to set Michael straight about HIV in a way that will persuade him not to engage in risky behaviors. Write a letter from Maria to Michael, in which Maria describes ways HIV is transmitted and ways Michael can reduce his risk of contracting HIV. Also include people or places Michael can go to for more information or advice on HIV prevention and the kind of information or advice each person or place can give.

### **Pregnancy Prevention Gazette**

Working in groups, develop a newspaper that contains accurate information about pregnancy prevention. The newspaper should be modeled after a local newspaper and may include such things as:

- Feature stories
- Cartoons
- Advice columns
- Crossword puzzles
- Graphics, charts, or photographs
- News stories
- Editorials, letters to the editor
- Book and movie reviews

Information covered in the newspaper must include the following:

- The importance and rationale for postponing sexual intercourse
- Ways to recognize potentially dangerous or risky situations that may lead to unwanted sexual activity
- Range of birth control methods available and a discussion of their relative effectiveness
- Sources of reliable information on preventing pregnancy along with a justification as to why each source is reliable and what type of information each source may provide
- Teen myths and misconceptions about pregnancy and sexuality
- Health risks associated with adolescent pregnancy

## **A Dialogue**

Amy is on a date with Rick, whom she has been seeing for about a month. Rick tries to pressure her to have sex with him. Prepare a brief dialogue between Amy and Rick that shows Amy using TWO types of refusal skills. Include in the dialogue TWO risks associated with sexual activity.

## **Design Your Own Game Show!**

Develop questions and research answers using the following categories as ideas:

- Common misconceptions about how a particular STD is contracted
- Signs and symptoms of a particular STD
- Ways to avoid contracting an STD
- Two sources of help or information available to a person who suspects he or she may have an STD
- Steps in a decision-making process

## NOTES